

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Docket: ATM-2301

Applicant : MARBLER et al.
Serial No. : (Based on European Patent Application No. 00811227.8, filed
On December 21, 2000)
Filed : November 30, 2001
Title : PROCESS FOR MANUFACTURING A MULTI-LAYER
PACKAGING FILM

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please amend this application as follows:

In the Claims:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121, please cancel original Claims 1 to 11, and insert new Claims 12 to 41, as follows. The changes made are shown explicitly in the attached "Version With Markings to Show Changes Made".

Please cancel original Claims 1 to 11.

Please insert new Claims 12 to 41, as follows:

12. A process comprising manufacturing a multi-layer packaging film (10) for an easy-open form of packaging (20) having at least one line of perforations (18, 18') that are provided in a plastic surface layer of the packaging and serve as an aid for alignment of a tear line propagating in the packaging film (10) upon tearing open the packaging, including cutting the perforations (18, 18') into a surface layer which is in the

form of a film (14), and joining the said pre-cut film (14) to the other layers (12) to make up a composite film (10).

13. The process according to Claim 12, wherein the film (14) is joined to the other layers (12) by means of an adhesive layer (16) to make up a composite film (10).

14. The process according to Claim 13, wherein the perforations (18, 18') are cut before coating the film (14) with adhesive (16).

15. The process according to Claim 13, wherein the perforations (18, 18') are cut after coating the film (14) with adhesive (16).

16. The process according to Claim 14, wherein two lines of perforations (18, 18') are cut essentially parallel to each other and a distance (e) apart as guidelines on both sides of a tear which propagates in the packaging film (10) on tearing open the packaging (20).

17. The process according to Claim 16, wherein the packaging film is employed for the production of pouch-type forms of packaging.

18. The process according to Claim 15, wherein two lines of perforations (18, 18') are cut essentially parallel to each other and a distance (e) apart as guidelines on both sides of a tear which propagates in the packaging film (10) on tearing open the packaging (20).

19. The process according to Claim 18, wherein the packaging film is employed for the production of pouch-type forms of packaging.

20. The process according to Claim 12, wherein the film (14) is joined to the other layers (12) by means of extrusion to make up a composite film (10).

21. The process according to Claim 20, wherein two lines of perforations (18, 18') are cut essentially parallel to each other and a distance (e) apart as guidelines on both sides of a tear which propagates in the packaging film (10) on tearing open the packaging (20).

22. The process according to Claim 21, wherein the packaging film is employed for the production of pouch-type forms of packaging.

23. The process according to Claim 12, wherein two lines of perforations (18, 18') are cut essentially parallel to each other and a distance (e) apart as guidelines on both sides of a tear which propagates in the packaging film (10) on tearing open the packaging (20).

24. The process according to Claim 23, wherein the packaging film is employed for the production of pouch-type forms of packaging.

25. The process according to Claim 13, wherein two lines of perforations (18, 18') are cut essentially parallel to each other and a distance (e) apart as guidelines on both sides of a tear which propagates in the packaging film (10) on tearing open the packaging (20).

26. The process according to Claim 25, wherein the packaging film is employed for the production of pouch-type forms of packaging.

27. The process according to Claim 12, wherein the packaging film is employed for the production of pouch-type forms of packaging.

28. Packaging comprised at least in part of a packaging film (10) manufactured using the process according to Claim 12.

29. Packaging according to Claim 28, wherein the film (14) with the perforations (18, 18') is situated on the inner side of the packaging.

30. Packaging according to Claim 29, wherein a notch (24) for initiating tearing is provided in the region of the perforations (18, 18').

31. Packaging according to Claim 30, wherein the notch (24) is situated between the two lines of perforations (18, 18').

32. Packaging according to Claim 28, wherein a notch (24) for initiating tearing is provided in the region of the perforations (18, 18').

33. Packaging according to Claim 32, wherein the notch (24) is situated between the two lines of perforations (18, 18').

34. Packaging comprised at least in part of a packaging film (10) manufactured using the process according to Claim 13.

35. Packaging according to Claim 34, wherein the film (14) with the perforations (18, 18') is situated on the inner side of the packaging.

36. Packaging according to Claim 35, wherein a notch (24) for initiating tearing is provided in the region of the perforations (18, 18').

37. Packaging according to Claim 36, wherein the notch (24) is situated between the two lines of perforations (18, 18').

38. Packaging comprised at least in part of a packaging film (10) manufactured using the process according to Claim 17.

39. Packaging comprised at least in part of a packaging film (10) manufactured using the process according to Claim 19.

40. Packaging comprised at least in part of a packaging film (10) manufactured using the process according to Claim 20.

41. Packaging comprised at least in part of a packaging film (10) manufactured using the process according to Claim 23.

In the Specification:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121, please insert the priority history paragraph on page 1, between the title and the first line, as follows. The changes made are shown explicitly in the attached "Version With Markings to Show Changes Made".

This has priority benefit of European Patent Application No. 00811227.8, filed on December 21, 2000.

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 11 have been canceled. New Claims 12 to 41 have been inserted.

The priority benefit paragraph has been inserted.

Please enter this preliminary amendment before calculating the filing fee.

Respectfully submitted,

Virgil H. Marsh

Virgil H. Marsh
Registration No. 23,083

Date: Nov. 30, 2001

FISHER, CHRISTEN & SABOL
1725 K Street, N.W.
Suite 1401
Washington, D.C. 20006
Telephone: 202/659-2000
Facsimile: 202/659-2015

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Original Claims 1 to 11 have been canceled.

New Claims 12 to 41 have been inserted.

In the Specification:

The following priority history paragraph has been inserted on page 1 between the title and the first line, as follows:

This has priority benefit of European Patent Application No. 00811227.8, filed on December 21, 2000.